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A NEW RACE OF *RALLUS NIGRICANS* FROM
 COLOMBIA

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For some time I have been aware that specimens of *Rallus nigricans* from Colombia in my collection differed from a series from Paraguay and Brazil. However, press of other work has kept me before this from making more than a superficial examination of the series. A more thorough investigation has now convinced me that the Colombian birds deserve to be named.

I wish to thank the American Museum of Natural History and the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences for the loan of specimens.

Rallus nigricans caucae subsp. nov.

Type.—From Munchique, El Tambo, Cauca, Colombia, El. 5700'; No. 12471, adult female in the Conover Collection, Chicago Natural History Museum; collected May 29, 1937, by Kjell von Sneidern.

Characters.—Differs from typical *nigricans* from Paraguay and Brazil by having the undersides much lighter more bluish gray. This is especially noticeable about the crissum and vent, which are inclined to be blackish in the typical race. Also the light throat patch is generally whiter and more extensive.

Description of type.—Forehead and fore part of crown dull gray; rest of upperparts, except tail, uniform olive brown; upper tail coverts and tail black; primaries and underwing coverts dark brown; throat white; sides of face, neck, chest, breast and flanks bluish gray (nearest to Deep Mouse Gray of Ridgway); crissum and vent dull gray; undertail coverts black; bill "green yellow" with darker tip; legs light brick red. Wing 125, culmen 52, tarsus 46, middle toe with claw 57 mm.

Range.—The Cauca Valley of Colombia.

Remarks.—Among the specimens examined an occasional Colombian bird approaches in the darkness of its underparts the series from Brazil and Paraguay, but some of this would seem to be due to wear. Also, one specimen from Horqueta, Paraguay is as light gray on the breast as the average Colombian example. Nevertheless, the Colombian series when compared to the Brazilian and Paraguayan specimens, is undoubtedly much lighter gray underneath.

No specimens from eastern Peru (*humilis*) were to be had for comparison. However, in the original description no mention is made of the type having lighter underparts than the typical race. Also, Dr. C. E. Hellmayr (Field Mus. Nat. Hist., Zool. Ser., 13 part 1, no. 1, p. 322,

1942) who had the opportunity of examining the type, synonymized *humilis* with typical *nigricans*, while at the same time stating that specimens from Colombia averaged slightly paler gray underneath.

Specimens examined:

Rallus nigricans nigricans.—17: Brazil (Rio Paranapanema, Sao Paulo, 1; Rolante, Rio grande do Sul, 1; Joinville, Santa Catharina, 1); Paraguay (Villa Rica, 7; Horqueta, 7).

Rallus nigricans caucae.—22: Colombia, Cauca (Timba Valle, 1; Munchique, El Tambo, 16; Popayan, 2; Rio Frio, 2); Antioquia (Medellin, (*L. l. muriei*)).